

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

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§ 2711.4 Compensation for authorized improvements.

§ 2711.4-1 Grazing improvements.

No public lands in a grazing lease or permit may be conveyed until the provisions of part 4100 of this title concerning compensation for any authorized grazing improvements have been met.

§ 2711.4-2 Other private improvements.

Where public lands to be sold under this part contain authorized private improvements, other than those identified in § 2711.4-1 of this subpart or those subject to a patent reservation, the owner of such improvements shall be given an opportunity to remove them if such owner has not been declared the purchaser of the lands sold, or the prospective purchaser may compensate the owner of such authorized private improvements and submit proof of compensation to the authorized officer.

§ 2711.5 Conveyance documents.

Patents and other conveyance documents issued under this part shall contain a reservation to the United States of all minerals. Such minerals shall be subject to the right to explore, prospect for, mine, and remove under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe. However, upon the filing of an application as provided in part 2720 of this title, the Secretary may convey the mineral interest if all requirements of the law are met. Where such application has been filed and meets the requirements for conveyance, the authorized officer may withhold issuance of a patent or other document of conveyance on lands sold under this part until processing of the mineral conveyance application is completed, at which time a single patent or document of conveyance for the entire estate or interest of the United States may be issued.

§ 2711.5-2 Terms, covenants, conditions, and reservations.

Patents or other conveyance documents issued under this part may contain such terms, covenants, conditions, and reservations as the authorized officer determines are necessary in the

public interest to insure proper land use and protection of the public interest as authorized by section 208 of the Act.

§ 2711.5-3 Notice of conveyance.

The authorized officer shall immediately notify the Governor and the heads of local government of the issuance of conveyance documents for public lands within their respective jurisdiction.

[45 FR 39418, June 10, 1980, as amended at 49 FR 29016, July 17, 1984]

PART 2720—CONVEYANCE OF FEDERALLY-OWNED MINERAL INTERESTS

Subpart 2720—Conveyance of Federally-Owned Mineral Interests

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AUTHORITY: 43 U.S.C. 1719 and 1740.

SOURCE: 44 FR 1342, Jan. 4, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 2720—Conveyance of Federally-Owned Mineral Interests

§ 2720.0-1 Purpose.

The purpose of these regulations is to establish procedures under section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1719, for conveyance of mineral interests owned by the United States where the surface is or will be in non-Federal ownership.

§ 2720.0-2 Objectives.

The objective is to allow consolidation of surface and subsurface or mineral ownership where there are no

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known mineral values or in those instances where the reservation interferes with or precludes appropriate non-mineral development and such development is a more beneficial use of the land than the mineral development.

§ 2720.0-3 Authority.

(a) Section 209(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1719(b), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey mineral interests owned by the United States where the surface is or will be in non-Federal ownership, if certain specific conditions are met.

(b) Section 310 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1740, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of the Act.

§ 2720.0-5 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the term:

(a) *Prospective record owner* means a person who has a contract or other agreement to purchase a tract of land that is in non-Federal ownership with a reservation of minerals in the United States, or a person who is purchasing a tract of land under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 or other laws authorizing the conveyance of Federal lands subject to the reservation of a mineral interest.

(b) *Known mineral values* means mineral rights in lands containing geologic formations that are valuable in the monetary sense for exploring, developing, or producing natural mineral deposits. The presence of such mineral deposits with potential for mineral development may be known because of previous exploration, or may be inferred based on geologic information.

(c) *Authorized officer* means any employee of the Bureau of Land Management to whom has been delegated the authority to perform the duties described in this part.

(d) *Proof of ownership* means evidence of title acceptable in local realty practice by attorneys and title examiners and may include a current title attorney's opinion, based on a current abstract of title prepared by a bonded

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title insurance or title abstract company doing business in the locale where the lands are located.

[44 FR 1342, Jan. 4, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 9657, Mar. 20, 1986; 60 FR 12711, Mar. 8, 1995]

§ 2720.0-6 Policy.

As required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Bureau of Land Management may convey a federally owned mineral interest only when the authorized officer determines that it has no known mineral value, or that the mineral reservation is interfering with or precluding appropriate nonmineral development of the lands and that nonmineral development is a more beneficial use than mineral development. Allegation, hypothesis or speculation that such conditions could or may exist at some future time shall not be sufficient basis for conveyance. Failure to establish by convincing factual evidence that the requisite conditions of interference or preclusion presently exist, and that nonmineral development is a more beneficial use, shall result in the rejection of an application.

[51 FR 9657, Mar. 20, 1986, as amended at 60 FR 12711, Mar. 8, 1995]

§ 2720.0-9 Information collection.

(a) The Office of Management and Budget has approved under 44 U.S.C. 3507 the information collection requirements contained in part 2720 and assigned clearance number 1004-0153. The Bureau of Land Management is collecting the information to permit the authorized officer to determine whether the Bureau of Land Management should dispose of Federally-owned mineral interests. The Bureau of Land Management will use the information collected to make these determinations. A response is required to obtain a benefit.

(b) The Bureau of Land Management estimates the public reporting burden for this information to average 8 hours per response, including the time for reviewing regulations, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of